

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 20 have been amended to clarify and better define that which the Applicants consider to be the invention. Claims 5, 7, 16 and 25 have been cancelled. The cancelled features have been incorporated into the independent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lambert (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,478)("Lambert") in view of Hoffman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,071)("Hoffman"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The office points to Hoffman as teaching a server that maintains state. The state that is being maintained by Hoffman, in Col. 2, lines 55-67, is directed to the maintenance of an object storage area in memory, and maintaining a count of the number of pieces of data stored in the object storage area, and creating a storage reference based on the item count. Although Hoffman teaches a way for a server to maintain state for an object, thus avoiding a client from maintaining state, the maintained state is not for a session. That is, because Hoffman needs to track each access with a count, each access is not for a same session, otherwise Hoffman's teachings would not work. Consequently, Hoffman fails to teach the use of a stateless client, as claimed.

Further, the independent claims have been amended to clarify the embodiments of the invention. Specifically, claim 1 was amended to recite that:

...at least one stateless client coupled to said at least one server, wherein said at least one stateless client obtains said at least one session from said at least one server, wherein said at least one server maintains at least one state and said at least one state is associated with said at least one session, and further comprising at least one second stateless client, wherein said second stateless client connects to the same said session as said at least one stateless client was connected to, so as to allow the second stateless client access to the at least one state, and wherein said at least one server continues to execute said session when said at least one stateless client disconnects from said at least one server.

Independent claim 11 recites:

...continuing execution of said session when neither said first stateless client computer or said second stateless client computer is being provided data associated with said session.

Independent claim 20 recites:

...computer readable program code configured to continue execution of said session while neither said first stateless client computer or said second stateless client computer is being provided data associated with said session.

The Examiner is respectfully referred to the claim amendments, which clear define the session. In the prior art, the session is not allowed to continue execution when neither the first stateless client or the second stateless client is being provided with data. Hoffman teaches to maintain the session of particular data only. If new data is "stored", that data is associated with a count. There is no teaching of associating the data with a session.

The other cited art, including the teachings of Zhao have been reconsidered anew, and the Applicants submit that the combined teachings of the art fail to teach or suggest the claimed invention, as now amended.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the pending rejections. In addition, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned before mailing a next office action, in case minor clarifications can be made to move the case to allowance.

A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 774-6903. **Please charge the 1 month extension to the deposit account**, and/or any additional fees that may be due in connection with the filing of this paper. The Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP070).

Respectfully submitted,
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